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(54) **Antibiotic A/16686 and its preparation from actinoplanes**

(57) The novel glycopeptide antibiotic A/16686 and its physiologically acceptable acid addition salts, are produced by culturing a novel strain of the *Actinoplanes* genus, designated as *Actinoplanes* sp. ATCC 33076. The antibiotic as its hydrochloride is a white crystalline material, melting at 224°-226°C, specific rotation

$$[\alpha]_D^{24} =$$

+49.7° (c=0.43% in DMF), analysis C=51.73%, H=6.34%, N=9.96%, total Cl=5.84%, Cl⁻=4.74%, and residue = 1%, the non-ionic Cl being present as chloro-substituted hydroxy-phenyl-glycine.

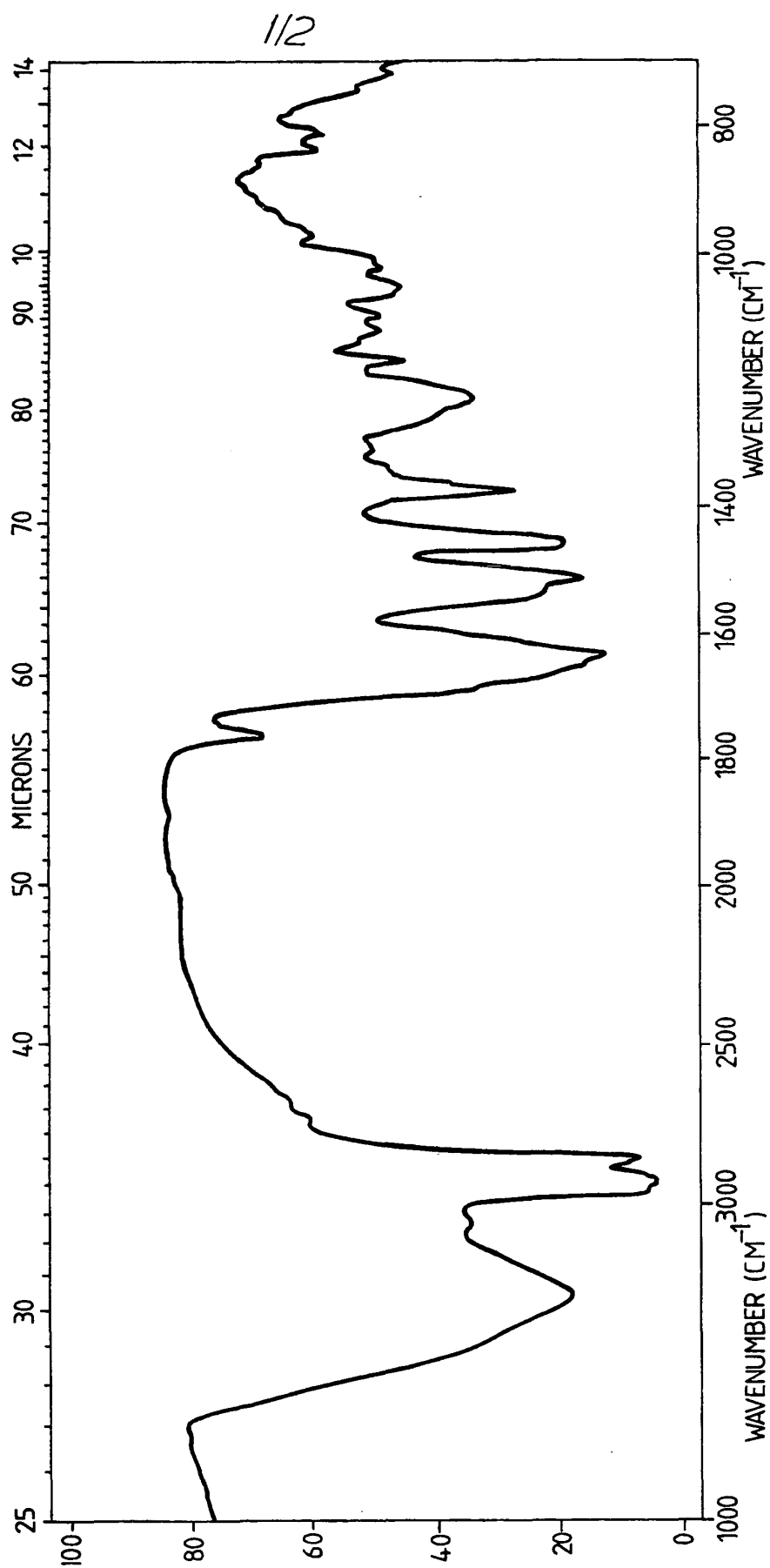
The antibiotic and its salts have activity against gram-positive micro-organisms, and may be incorporated into pharmaceutical compositions with a physiologically acceptable carrier.

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I.R. Spectrum

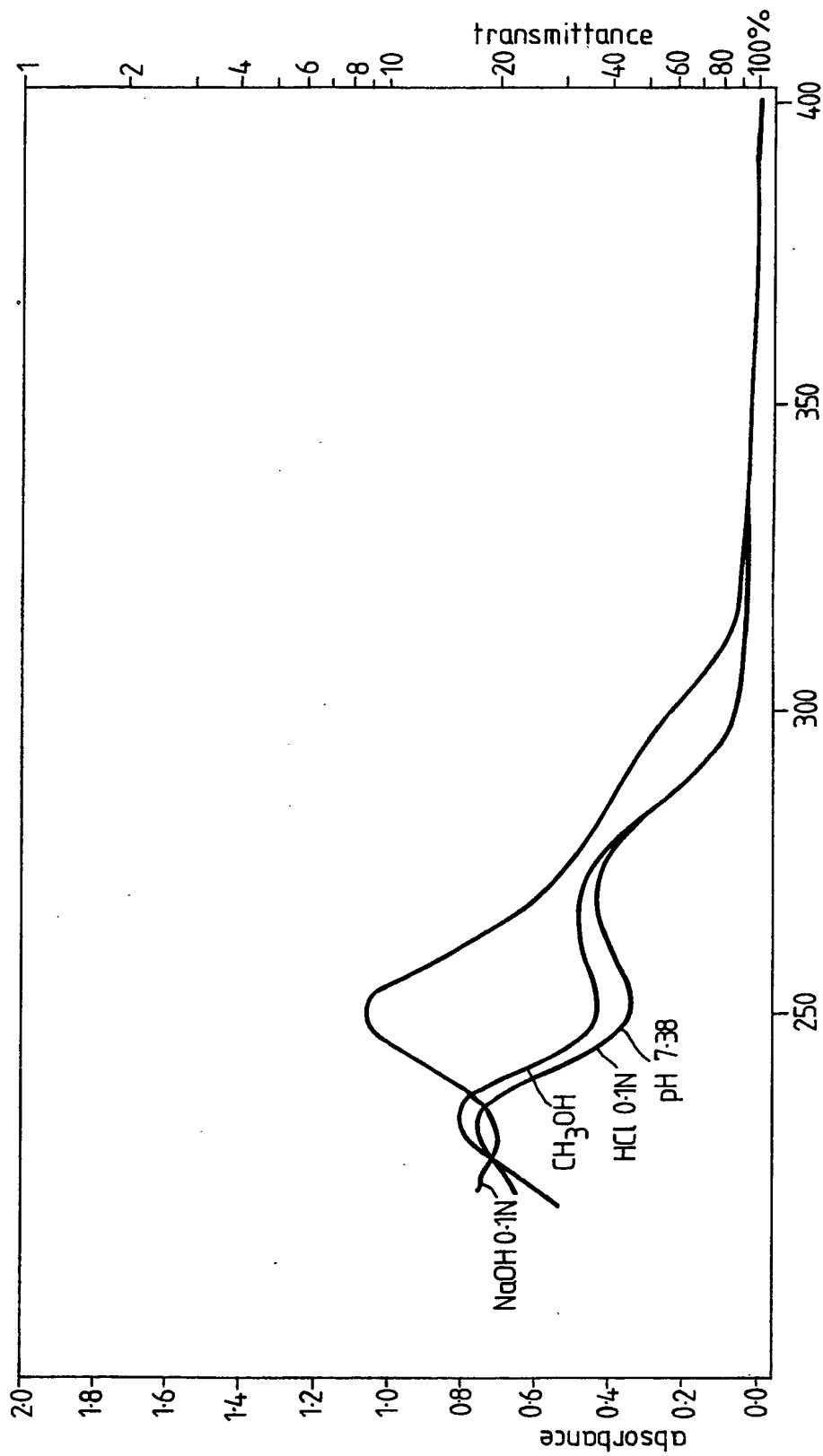
Fig.1.



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Fig.2.



SPECIFICATION

characterization of *Streptomyces* species—Intern. J. System. Bact. 16, 313-340, 1966.

Antibiotic and process for its preparation

5 This invention relates to an antibiotic substance arbitrarily designated herein as A/16686 antibiotic, to a process for producing it by culturing a hitherto undescribed strain which has been characterized taxonomically as a novel strain of the *Actinoplanes* genus, and to its use as an antibacterial agent.

10 Antibiotic A/16686 is a glycopeptide antibiotic with a basic character which is capable of forming acid addition salts. Therefore the physiologically-acceptable acid addition salts of antibiotic A/16686 are part of this invention.

15 For simplicity in discussions of utility, the term "antibiotic A/16686" is used herein to refer to an antibiotic selected from antibiotic A/16686 free base and its physiologically-acceptable acid addition salts.

20 Antibiotic A/16686 inhibits *in vitro* the growth of certain pathogenic bacteria, especially gram-positive. Moreover parenteral administration of antibiotic A/16686 gives a high degree of protection against experimental infections in mice.

25 As stated above, antibiotic A/16686 is produced by culturing a novel strain of the *Actinoplanes* genus. A culture of this strain, which was isolated from a soil sample collected at Vaghalbod (India), has been deposited on January 30, 1979 with the permanent culture collection of ATCC (American Type Culture Collection)—12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville—Maryland 20852—U.S.A. where it has been accorded the accession number ATCC 33076.

30 The characteristics of *Actinoplanes* sp. ATCC 33076 are given in the following paragraphs.

Morphology

The strain grows well on different media with an orange color of the substrate mycelium. It does not produce pigment. Aerial mycelium is always absent. At microscopic examination the vegetative mycelium reveals branched hyphae with a diameter of about 1 μ m. The sporangia form scantily only on potato-agar and are globose with a very irregular surface and a diameter ranging from 5.0 to 9.0 μ m. Sporangial release is observed after rupture of the wall of the sporangium. The subspherical spores are motile (1.0-1.5 μ m diameter). Analysis of the cell-wall components reveals meso-diaminopimelic acid and sugar pattern of type D (Lechevalier et al.,—Chemical composition as a criterium in the classification of Actinomycetes. Adv. Applied Microbiology, 14, 1971. Academic Press N.Y.).

Cultural characteristics

55 Table 1 reports the cultural characteristics of *Actinoplanes* ATCC 33076 cultivated on various standard media suggested by Shirling and Gottlieb (Intern. J. System. Bact. 16, 313-340, 1966) and other media recommended by Waksman (The Actinomycetes, Vol. II—The Williams and Wilkins Co. 1961). The cultural characteristics were determined after 6 to 14 days of incubation at 30°C.

Cultural characteristics

65 The number of some of the culture media refers to those given by Shirling and Gottlieb in Methods for

TABLE I

| Culture media | Cultural characteristics |
|--|--|
| Medium No. 2 (yeast extract-malt agar) | Abundant growth, wrinkled surface, light brown 12 H 12 |
| Medium No. 3 (oatmeal agar) | Scant growth, thin, light orange 9 B 6 |
| Medium No. 4 (inorganic salts-starch agar) | Moderate growth, crusty surface, orange 11 L 12 |
| Medium No. 5 (glycerol-asparagine agar) | Scant growth, hyaline |
| Medium No. 6 (peptone-yeast extract-iron agar) | Scant growth, hyaline to light brown |
| Medium No. 7 (tyrosine agar) | Scant growth, smooth surface, brown 5 D 11 |
| Oatmeal agar (according to Waksman) | Abundant growth, wrinkled surface, orange to brown 12 C 10 |
| Hickey and Tresner's agar | Abundant growth, crusty surface, orange 11 G 8 |
| Czapek glucose agar | Moderate growth, crusty surface, orange 11 G 8 |
| Glucose asparagine agar | Scant growth, crusty surface, light orange 11 F 6 |
| Nutrient agar | Moderate growth, smooth surface, orange 11 G 8 |
| Potato agar | Abundant growth, wrinkled surface, amber-brown 12 E 10 |
| Bennett's agar | Abundant growth, wrinkled surface, orange 11 C 8 |
| Calcium malate agar | Moderate growth, smooth surface, light orange 10 C 6 |
| Skim milk agar | Abundant growth, wrinkled surface, orange 9 C 2 |
| Czapek agar | Moderate growth, crusty surface, orange 10 D 7 |
| Egg agar | Moderate growth, smooth surface, hyaline to light orange |
| Peptone glucose agar | Abundant growth, wrinkled surface, orange 11 G 11 |
| Agar | Very scant growth, smooth surface, hyaline |
| Loeffler serum | Very scant growth, smooth surface, orange |
| Potato | Scant growth, crusty, light brown |
| Gelatin | Scant growth, light orange |
| Cellulose | Very scant growth, thin, hyaline |

Carbon utilization

Table II reports the utilization of carbon sources examined according to the method of Pridham and Gottlieb (J. Bact. 56, 107, 1948).

5

TABLE II

| | Carbon sources | Utilization |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|
| 10 | Inositol | — |
| | Fructose | + |
| | Rhamnose | + |
| | Mannitol | — |
| | Xylose | + |
| 15 | Raffinose | — |
| | Arabinose | + |
| | Cellulose | — |
| | Sucrose | + |
| | Glucose | + |
| 20 | Mannose | + |
| | Lactose | — |
| | Salicin | + |
| | + = positive utilization | |
| | — = no growth | |

Physiological characteristics

Table III reports the physiological characteristics of the strain.

TABLE III

| Test | Results |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Hydrolysis of starch | positive |
| H ₂ S formation | positive |
| 10 Tyrosinase reaction | negative |
| Casein hydrolysis | positive |
| Solubilization of calcium malate | negative |
| Liquefaction of gelatine | positive |
| 15 Litmus milk-coagulation | positive |
| Litmus milk-peptonization | negative |
| Cellulose decomposition | negative |

20 For producing antibiotic A/16686 the strain *Actinoplanes* sp. ATCC 33076 is cultivated under aerobic conditions in an aqueous nutrient medium containing an assimilable source of carbon, an assimilable source of nitrogen and inorganic salts.

25 Said culture medium can be any one of a number of nutrient media usually employed in the fermentation art, however certain media are preferred. Thus, for instance, preferred carbon sources are glucose, fructose, mannose, sucrose and the like. Preferred nitrogen sources are soybean meal, peptone, meat extract, yeast extract, tryptone, amino acids and the like. Among the inorganic salts which can be incorporated in the culture media are the customary soluble salts capable of yielding sodium, potassium, iron, zinc, cobalt, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, chloride, carbonate, sulfate, nitrate and like ions.

30 Ordinarily the antibiotic-producing strain is precultured in a shake flask, then the culture is used to inoculate jar fermentors for production of substantial quantities of antibiotic A/16686. The medium used for the preculture can be the same as that employed for larger fermentations, but other media can also be employed.

The A/16686-producing strain can be grown at 45 temperatures between about 20°C and about 37°C and preferably at temperatures of about 28-30°C.

During the fermentation, antibiotic production can be followed by testing samples of the broth or of extracts of the mycelial solids for antibiotic activity.

50 Organisms known to be sensitive to antibiotic A/16686 are useful for this purpose. One especially useful assay organism is *Sarcina lutea*. The bioassay is conveniently performed by the agar diffusion method on agar plates. Maximum production of 55 antibiotic activity generally occurs between about the third and the fifth days. The antibiotic produced during fermentation of the strain *Actinoplanes* sp. ATCC 33076 is found both in the broth and in the mycelial mass. Recovery of antibiotic A/16686 may 60 therefore, be carried out by separated extraction of broth and mycelium.

Extraction of the mycelial mass is best accomplished with methanol, but other lower alcohols and chloroform are also suitable. Antibiotic A/16686 is 65 recovered as a raw product from the extracting sol-

vent by routine procedure. Analogously, also the broth is extracted—preferably with n-butanol—and a further amount of raw antibiotic A/16686 is obtained by precipitation from this solution. Purification of the raw antibiotic A/16686 is then achieved by treating 70 the product recovered from the extracting solvents with a mixture chloroform:ethanol:water 4:7:2, separating the oily product which forms and pouring it in water. This treatment causes solidification of the product which is recovered by filtration, and further 75 purified by Silicagel column chromatography eluting with a mixture acetonitrile:0.01 N HCl 1:1. Antibiotic A/16686, which according to this procedure is recovered in the form of the hydrochloride, is then 80 desalted by chromatography on a cross-linked dextran gel column.

Each step of the above purification procedure is monitored by thin-layer chromatography using a suitable solvent system such as a basic solvent system, for instance n-propanol : n-butanol : 85 N-ammonium hydroxide 2:3:4 (upper phase) or methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate:10% ammonium hydroxide 10:9:1, in which any acid addition salt of antibiotic A/16686 is converted into 90 the free base. All the above steps are therefore aimed to isolate pure antibiotic A/16686 characterized by a particular R_f value in the particular solvent system employed.

Other purification methods may suitably be employed involving conventional extraction and adsorption procedures. Said alternative methods may be easily set up, step by step, by monitoring the purification progress by thin-layer chromatography, as 95 described above. Following the t.l.c. spot of antibiotic A/16686 with a particular R_f value, it will thus be apparent to any skilled technician which operations 100 might be suitably carried out in order to isolate pure antibiotic A/16686.

If desired the pure antibiotic A/16686 hydrochloride, obtained according to the procedure set forth 105 above, may then be converted into the corresponding free base or into another physiologically-acceptable acid addition salt by common procedures.

110 Antibiotic A/16686 is an antimicrobial agent and it is especially active against gram-positive microorganisms. In particular, the *in vitro* activity spectrum of antibiotic A/16686 is summarized in the following Table IV:

TABLE IV

| | Organisms | M.I.C. (μ g/ml) Antibiotic A/16686 |
|----|--|--|
| 5 | <i>S. aureus</i> ATCC 6538 | 0.16 |
| | <i>S. aureus</i> ATCC 9144 | 0.16 |
| | <i>S. aureus</i> Tour | 0.31 |
| | <i>Staphylococcus</i> 10 B Ciba | 0.08 |
| 10 | <i>S. epidermidis</i> ATCC 12228 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. saprophyticus</i> NCTC 7292 | 0.16 |
| | <i>M. flavus</i> ATCC 10240 | 0.016 |
| | <i>S. lutea</i> ATCC 9341 | 0.02 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> C 203 SKF 13400 | 0.01 |
| 15 | <i>S. pneumoniae</i> Felton UC 41 | 0.05 |
| | <i>S. faecalis</i> ATCC 7080 | 0.31 |
| | <i>S. foecium</i> ATCC 10541 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. agalactiae</i> ATCC 7077 | 0.02 |
| | <i>S. mutans</i> ATCC 27607 | 0.08 |
| 20 | <i>C. diphtheriae</i> var. <i>mitis</i> ATCC 11051 | 0.31 |
| | <i>C. xerosis</i> NCTC 9755 | 0.02 |
| | <i>B. subtilis</i> ATCC 6633 | 0.062 |
| | <i>B. cereus</i> var. <i>mycoides</i> ATCC 11778 | 0.08 |
| | <i>C. perfringens</i> ISS 30543 | 0.16 |
| 25 | <i>P. acnes</i> ATCC 6919 | 0.4 |
| | <i>P. acnes</i> ATCC 6922 | 0.8 |
| | <i>P. acnes</i> ATCC 25746 | 0.4 |

30

Table V reports the results of tests wherein anti-biotic A/16686 tested against a variety of *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Streptococcus faecalis* strains clinically isolated.

35

TABLE V

| | Organisms | M.I.C. (μ g/ml) Antibiotic A/16686 |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 40 | <i>S. aureus</i> 54310 L 1096 | 0.62 |
| | <i>S. aureus</i> 54560/I L 1097 | 0.31 |
| 45 | <i>S. aureus</i> 54635 L 1098 | 0.31 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 33 | 0.04 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 794 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 800 | 0.04 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 801 | 0.16 |
| 50 | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 802 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 803 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 804 | 0.62 |
| | <i>S. pyogenes</i> L 805 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. pneumoniae</i> L 1055 | 0.04 |
| 55 | <i>S. pneumoniae</i> L 1102 | 0.04 |
| | <i>S. pneumoniae</i> L 1174 | 0.08 |
| | <i>S. faecalis</i> L 768 | 0.31 |
| | <i>S. faecalis</i> L 876 | 0.31 |
| | <i>S. faecalis</i> L 922 | 0.31 |
| 60 | <i>S. faecalis</i> L 949 | 0.31 |
| | <i>S. faecalis</i> L 965 | 0.31 |
| | <i>S. faecalis</i> L 1139 | 0.62 |
| | <i>S. foecium</i> L 763 | 0.16 |

65

Antibiotic A/16686 has also been found to possess a high order of activity *in vivo* against various pathogenic organisms. The effectiveness of antibiotic A/16686 is readily apparent from Table VI which gives the ED₅₀ values in mice against three different microorganisms.

TABLE VI

| | ED ₅₀ mg/kg s.c. | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | S. aureus Tour | S. pyogenes C203 ISM | S. pneumoniae Felton UC 41 |
| A/16686 | 24.6 | 0.09 | 0.2 |

Antibiotic A/16686 has been found to possess a relatively low level of toxicity when used in test animals. For example, the LD₅₀ value, when the antibiotic is administered intraperitoneally to mice is approximately comprised between 500 and 750 mg/Kg.

A further object of the present invention is therefore the use of antibiotic A/16686 as an antibacterial agent, intending with the term "use" all industrially applicable aspects and acts of said use, including the embodying of antibiotic A/16686 into pharmaceutical compositions, which therefore represent a further feature of the present invention.

These pharmaceutical compositions, suitable for oral, topical or parenteral administrations, are prepared in the usual ways known to all skilled in the pharmaceutical sciences. Examples of these formulations are described for instance in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences 15th Ed., 1975 Mack Publishing Co. Easton, Pennsylvania. These forms include tablets, capsules, powders, ointments, liquid solutions, solutions for injection and the like. The dosage unit may contain from 0.5 to 99 percent, preferably from 5 to 80 percent of active ingredient. The daily dosage may be set up considering several factors such as the body weight, the infecting organism, the severity of the infection, the period and the mode of administration.

In order to illustrate more fully the operation of this invention, the following Examples are provided.

Example 1

Fermentation of the strain *Actinoplanes* sp. ATCC 33076

A culture of *Actinoplanes* sp. ATCC 33076 is pre-cultured by growing the strain in a shake-flask culture having the following composition

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| meat extract | 3 g/l |
| yeast extract | 5 g/l |
| tryptone | 5 g/l |
| soluble starch | 24 g/l |
| glucose | 4 g/l |
| CaCO ₃ | 4 g/l |
| Tap water | 1 liter |

The flasks are shaken for about 96 hours at 28-30°C and then the pre-cultures (1 liter) are used to inoculate the jar fermentors each containing 10 liters of the following nutrient medium

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Meat extract | 40 g |
| Peptone | 40 g |
| Yeast extract | 10 g |
| Sodium chlorid | 25 g |
| Soybean meal | 100 g |
| Glucose | 250 g |
| CaCO ₃ | 50 g |
| Tap water | 10 liters |

The fermentation batches are incubated aerobically under stirring at 28-30°C. At intervals, the antibiotic activity is assayed microbiologically by the agar diffusion method using *Sarcina lutea* as the test organism. The maximum activity is reached after 72 to 120 hours of fermentation.

Example 2

Recovery of antibiotic A/16686

Whole fermentation broth (170 l) prepared as described in Example 1 is cooled at 10°C and brought to pH 3.5 by means of 18% HCl. The resulting acidic broth is filtered using a filter aid (Clarcel Flow-Ma), and the mycelial cake is washed with water. Then the filtered broth and the mycelium are further processed separately.

a) Methanol (30 l) is used to extract the mycelial mass which, after filtration, is extracted again with a mixture methanol/water (30 l or methanol plus 5 l of water). The exhausted mycelium is discarded and the two methanol extracts are concentrated under vacuum at a temperature lower than 40°C to yield an aqueous concentrate (6 l). This aqueous concentrate is extracted with three portions, 10 l each, of n-butanol, which are combined and concentrated to a small volume under vacuum.

This concentrate is added to petroleum ether and the resulting precipitate is separated by decantation and added to a further amount of petroleum ether. The precipitate is separated by filtration and dried under vacuum at room temperature to give 80 g of antibiotic A/16686 as a raw material having a M.I.C. against *S. pneumoniae* UC 41 of 0.1 µg/ml.

b) The filtered broth plus washing (165 l) is cooled to 10°C and adjusted to pH 3.5 by addition of concentrated HCl (2.5 l). The obtained solution is extracted with n-butanol (80 l) and the organic extract is then concentrated under vacuum at a temperature lower than 35°C, to give a butanol concentrate (6 l). This concentrate is added to petroleum ether and the obtained precipitate, separated by decantation is added to a further amount of petroleum ether. The solid is separated by filtration and dried under vacuum at room temperature to give 26.3 g of raw antibiotic A/16686 having a M.I.C. against *S. pneumoniae* UC 41 of 0.8 µg/ml.

Example 3

Purification of antibiotic A/16686

47.7 g of the raw antibiotic A/16686 obtained in Example 2a) are treated with 1.4 l of a chloroform : ethanol : water mixture (4:7:2) (v/v/v) and the oily product which forms is separated from the solution by decantation. Further 70 ml of the above mixture are then added to the oily product and the separation is repeated. By treatment of the oily product with water (440 ml), it solidifies and is separated by centrifugation and filtration:

a) The solid, which is separated, is suspended in water (170 ml), dissolved by addition of methanol (400 ml) and filtered. Then the solvents are stripped under vacuum by adding n-butanol at a temperature never higher than 35°C, to give a butanol concentrate of about 50 ml. By addition of diethyl ether (500 ml) a precipitate forms which is separated by filtration and dried under vacuum at room temperature yielding 1.012 g of rather pure antibiotic A/16686 having a M.I.C. on *S. pyogenes* of 0.025 µg/ml. The rather pure antibiotic A/16686 so obtained is then submitted to the following purification procedures:

1.58 g of the above antibiotic A.16686 characterized by a M.I.C. against *S. pyogenes* of 0.025 µg/ml are dissolved in acetonitrile : water 1:1 (v/v) and the resulting solution is applied to a column containing 430 g of silica gel 60 (Merck 0.06-0.2 mm) prepared in the same mixture. The column is developed first using the same acetonitrile-water mixture and collecting 70 fractions of 20 ml each, and then using acetonitrile:N/100 HCl 1:1 (v/v) and collecting further 290 fractions, of 20 ml each. Elution of the column is monitored by thin layer chromatography on 60 F₂₅₄ silica gel plates and by assaying fractions against *Sarcina lutea*. Fractions 130 to 265 are combined and the solvents are stripped under vacuum with n-butanol to give a n-butanol concentrate of 20 ml. This residual volume is poured into a large amount of ethyl ether and the precipitate which forms is separated by filtration and dried under vacuum at room temperature over P₂O₅ yielding 1.015 g of antibiotic A/16686.

0.67 g of the above substance are dissolved in 24 ml of water and 76 ml of methanol. The resulting solution is applied to a 3.0 × 62.0 cm column containing 220 g of Sephadex LH-20, prepared in methanol:water 7:3 (v/v). The column is developed with the same mixture collecting 10 ml fractions. Fractions 24 to 32 are combined and the solvents are stripped under vacuum at a temperature lower than 35°C with n-butanol to a residual butanol volume of about 10 ml. This solution is added to ethyl ether to precipitate the desired pure antibiotic A/16686. The precipitate is separated by filtration washed with ethyl ether and dried under vacuum over P₂O₅ at room temperature yielding 0.26 g of pure antibiotic A/16686.

b) The filtrate is stripped under vacuum at a temperature lower than 35°C by adding n-butanol, to give a n-butanol concentrate of 50 ml. By addition of petroleum ether a precipitate forms which is separated by filtration and dried under vacuum at room temperature yielding 42.9 g of partially purified antibiotic A/16686 characterized by a M.I.C. value against *S. pyogenes* of 0.2 µg/ml. This antibiotic substance is suspended in water (2.5 l) and dissolved by addition of NaOH 1N up to pH 7. Then the obtained aqueous solution is extracted with three portions, 5 l each, of n-butanol and this organic phase, after being washed with water, is concentrated to 200 ml under vacuum at a temperature lower than 35°C.

By adding diethyl ether to the concentrate, a precipitate forms which is filtered and dried under vacuum at room temperature. The dried product is dissolved in 160 ml of the upper layer of a n-propanol :

n-butanol-1N ammonium hydroxyde mixture 2:3:4 (v/v/v). The resulting solution is applied to a 100 cm high column, 7.5 cm in diameter, containing 1.7 Kg of silica gel 60 (Merck 0.06-0.2 mm) prepared on the above solvents mixture. The column is developed using the same mixture collecting 300 ml fractions. Elution of the column is monitored by thin layer chromatography. Fractions 21 to 26 are combined and stripped under vacuum at a temperature lower than 35°C with n-butanol to give a n-butanol concentrate of 50 ml. By addition of diethyl ether a precipitate forms which is separated by filtration, washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum over P₂O₅ at room temperature. A 1.875 g crop of rather pure antibiotic A/16686 is obtained which is then further purified by following the same procedures described under a) above.

Antibiotic A/16686 as the hydrochloride, is a white, crystalline material slightly hygroscopic which melts at 224-226°C. It is very soluble in water and dimethyl-formamide, soluble in methanol, ethanol, propanol and butanol, but is insoluble in ethyl ether, petroleum ether and benzene. Elemental analysis of antibiotic A/16686 hydrochloride, previously dried at 140°C under inert atmosphere, indicates the following approximate percentage composition (as an average of several analyses): carbon 51.73%; hydrogen 6.34%; nitrogen 9.96%; chlorine (total content) 5.84%; chlorine ions 4.74%; and residue 1%. The infrared absorption spectrum in nujol is shown in Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings.

The following absorption maxima are observed (in cm⁻¹):

3290-3070, 2930 and 2860 (nujol), 1765, 1630, 1510, 1455, 1375 (nujol), 1230, 1175, 1130, 1065, 1030, 1015, 980, 840 and 820.

The ultraviolet absorption spectrum is shown in Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings and exhibits the following absorption maxima:

- a) in methanol
- 232 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 178$)
- 265 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 107$)
- b) in methanol containing 0.1N HCl
- 231 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 167$)
- 270 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 96$)
- c) methanol containing 0.1N NaOH
- 250 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 232$)
- 295 nm (shoulder)
- d) in methanol containing pH 7.38 buffer
- 231 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 167$)
- 270 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 96$)

(The ultraviolet absorption spectra were registered with a Beckmann DK-2 Spectrophotometer).

Antibiotic A/16686 hydrochloride has a specific rotation, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$, of +49.7° (c = 0.43% in DMF). Antibiotic A/16686 shows the following characteristic reaction:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| ninhydrin (3% ethanolic solution) | negative |
| ninhydrin (3% ethanolic solution + sodium acetate) | positive |
| 1% FeCl ₃ -1% K ₃ Fe(CN) ₆ | positive (green) |
| 5 (aqueous solution) | |
| Molisch | positive |
| Fehling | negative |
| Biuret | positive |
| Anthrone | positive |
| 10 Millon | negative |
| H ₂ SO ₄ conc | negative |
| KMnO ₄ aqueous | positive |

The R_f values of antibiotic A/16686 in paper chromatography using different elution systems and *S. aureus* ATCC 6538 as a detection organism, are given in the following Table:

TABLE VII: Chromatographic behaviour (Whatman Nr. 1 paper) of antibiotic A/16686

| Elution systems | R _f values |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1) <i>n</i> -butanol saturated with Sørensen buffer pH 6.0 | 0.00 |
| 2) <i>n</i> -butanol saturated with water | 0.00 |
| 25 containing 2% of <i>p</i> -toluenesulfonic acid | |
| 3) <i>n</i> -butanol saturated with water containing 2% ammonium hydroxide | 0.00 |
| 4) Sørensen buffer, pH 6.0, saturated with <i>n</i> -butanol | 0.05 |
| 30 5) <i>n</i> -butanol:methanol:water 4:1:2 | 0.43 |
| 6) ethyl acetate saturated with water | 0.00 |
| 7) <i>n</i> -butanol:acetic acid:water 2:1:1 | 0.52 |
| 8) <i>n</i> -butanol:pyridine:water 4:3:7 | 0.87 |

Descending chromatography on the Whatman paper was used.
Rm: 40 cm

Amounts: 20 µg of the compound dissolved in water methanol (2mg/ml)

The R_f values of antibiotic A/16686 in various thin-layer chromatography systems are listed in the following table (the conditions are indicated below the table):

| Elution systems (v/v/v) | R _f values |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1) <i>n</i> -propanol: <i>n</i> -butanol:N ammonium hydroxide 2:3:4 (upper phase) | 0.15 |
| 50 2) <i>n</i> -butanol:acetic acid:water 4:2:5 | 0.61 |
| 3) <i>n</i> -butanol:ethanol:0.1 N hydrochloric acid | 0.61 |
| 4) chloroform:ethanol:10% acetic acid 4:7:2 | 0.00 |
| 55 5) <i>n</i> -butanol:acetic acid:water 4:1:5 | 0.17 |
| 6) methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate: | 0.52 |
| 10% ammonium hydroxide 10:9:1 | |
| 7) <i>n</i> -butanol:pyridine:water:acetic acid 6:4:3:1 | 0.45 |
| 60 8) methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate: | 0.11 |
| 10% ammonium hydroxide 10:9:1 | |
| 9) 0.25 M aqueous NaH ₂ PO ₄ : | 0.68 |
| 65 acetonitrile 1:1 | |

10) methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate 1:1 0.65

11) *n*-butanol:acetic acid:water 4:2:5 0.77

70 Rm: about 140 nm

Amounts: 2-5 µl of a solution (1 mg/ml) of the compound in acetonitrile-water 1:1

Visualization: a) bioautography on agar plates seeds with *B. subtilis* ATCC 6633; b) carbonization by heating with α -naphthol-sulfuric acid; c) Iodine vapour; d) chlorine-toluidine reagent; e) UV-light at 254 nm

1 to 7-Silicagel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (Merck); Visualization a, e, b, c, d, e

80 8, 9-Silicagel 60 F₂₅₄ silanised (Merck); Visualization e,

10, 11-Cellulose F plates (Merck); Visualization a,

As determined through high performance chromatographic techniques, antibiotic A/16686, isolated and purified as described in Example 3, consists of a main component which amounts to 70-80%, while the remaining 30-20% is ascribable to at least two minor components.

Antibiotic A/16686 hydrochloride isolated as described in the preceding examples is the hydrochloride of a chlorine-containing basic glycopeptide which differs from antibiotics belonging to the classical glycopeptide group in containing chlorine and in the variety of its amino-acid components. In fact amino-acid analysis of antibiotic A/16686, after acid hydrolysis in 6 N hydrochloric acid at 110°C for 6 hours, by means of an amino-acid auto-analyzer, indicated the presence of the following amino-acids: ornithine (118 µg/mg = 0.58 µM/mg), aspartic acid (29.2 µg/mg = 0.22 µM/mg), threonine (68 µg/mg = 0.57 µM/mg), glycine (25 µg/mg = 0.33 µM/mg), alanine (29 µg/mg = 0.32 µM/mg), leucine (41 µg/mg = 0.31 µM/mg) and phenylalanine (42 µg/mg = 0.25 µM/mg).

105 Further four peaks were detected using the column for neutral and acidic amino acids. Two of these four amino-acids were identified by means of gas chromatography-mass spectrometry after conversion into their corresponding methyl ester-trifluoroacetyl derivatives and were assigned structures corresponding to α -(*p*-hydroxyphenyl)-glycine and a α -(hydroxy, chlorophenyl)glycine.

Example 4

Isolation of the free base

115 By treatment of a solution of antibiotic A/16686 hydrochloride (0.05 g) in water (3 ml)-ethanol (8 ml) with 1,2-epoxybutane (2 ml) a precipitate forms which after standing at low temperature for one day is separated by centrifugation, washed with ethanol and dried over P₂O₅ under vacuum at room temperature yielding 0.016 of the corresponding free base.

Treatment of said free basic form of antibiotic A/16686 with a pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic acid leads to the formation of a corresponding acid addition salt. Pharmaceutically acceptable acids are non-toxic acids that are suitable for the formation of therapeutically useful salts as known in the art such as for instance hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, phosphoric, nitric, tartaric, acetic, succinic, lactic, glutamic or methane-

sulphonic acid.

CLAIMS

1. An antibiotic substance selected from antibiotic A/16686 free base and its non-toxic, pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts, characterised, in the form of its hydrochloride, by:
 - A) being a white crystalline material which melts at 224-226°C;
 - B) being very soluble in water and dimethylformamide; soluble in methanol, ethanol, propanol, and butanol; but insoluble in ethyl ether, petroleum ether, and benzene;
 - C) an approximate elemental composition of 51.73 percent carbon, 6.34 percent hydrogen, 9.96 percent nitrogen, 5.84 percent chlorine (total content), 4.74 percent chlorine ions, and 1 percent residue;
 - D) an infrared absorption spectrum in mineral oil with the following observable absorption maxima; (see Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings): 3290-3070, 2930 and 2860 (nujol), 1765, 1630, 1510, 1455, 1375 (nujol), 1230, 1175, 1130, 1065, 1030, 1015, 980, 840, and 820 cm^{-1} ;
 - E) an ultraviolet absorption spectrum with the following absorption maxima (see Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings):
 - a) in methanol:
 - 232 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 178$)
 - b) in methanol containing 0.1 N HCl:
 - 265 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 107$)
 - c) in methanol containing 0.1 N NaOH:
 - 231 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 167$)
 - d) in methanol containing pH 7.38 buffer:
 - 270 nm ($E_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 96$)
 - F) a specific rotation, $[\alpha]_D^{24}$, of +49.7° ($c = 0.43\%$ in DMF)
 - G) the following characteristic reactions:

| | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| ninhdrin (3% ethanolic solution) | negative | |
| ninhdrin (3% ethanolic solution + sodium acetate) | positive | |
| 1% FeCl_3 -1% $\text{K}_3\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$ | positive | (green) |
| Molish | positive | |
| Fehling | negative | |
| Biuret | positive | |
| Anthrone | positive | |
| Millon | negative | |
| H_2SO_4 conc. | negative | |
| KMnO_4 | positive | |
 - H) the following R_f values in paper-chromatography on Whatman Nr. 1 paper using *S. aureus* ATCC 6438 as a detection organism:

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| Elution systems | | R_f values |
| 1) <i>n</i> -butanol saturated with Sørensen | | 0.00 |

- 2) *n*-butanol saturated with water containing 2% of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid 0.00
- 3) *n*-butanol saturated with water containing 2% ammonium hydroxide 0.00
- 4) Sørensen buffer, pH 6.0, saturated with *n*-butanol 0.05
- 5) *n*-butanol:methanol:water 4:1:2 0.43
- 6) ethyl acetate saturated with water 0.00
- 7) *n*-butanol:acetic acid:water 2:1:1 0.52
- 8) *n*-butanol:pyridine:water 4:3:7 0.87
- I) The following R_f values in various thin-layer-chromatographic systems indicated below:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Elution systems (v/v/v) | R_f values |
| 1) <i>n</i> -propanol: <i>n</i> -butanol:N ammonium hydroxide 2:3:4 (upper phase) | 0.15 |
| 2) <i>n</i> -butanol:acetic acid:water 4:2:5 | 0.61 |
| 3) <i>n</i> -butanol:ethanol:0.1 N hydrochloric acid | 0.61 |
| 4) chloroform:ethanol:10% acetic acid 4:7:2 | 0.00 |
| 5) <i>n</i> -butanol:acetic acid:water 4:1:5 | 0.17 |
| 6) methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate:10% ammonium hydroxide 10:9:1 | 0.52 |
| 7) <i>n</i> -butanol:pyridine:water:acetic acid 6:4:3:1 | 0.45 |
| 8) methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate:10% ammonium hydroxide 10:9:1 | 0.11 |
| 9) 0.25 M aqueous NaH_2PO_4 : acetonitrile 1:1 | 0.68 |
| 10) methanol:10% aqueous ammonium acetate 1:1 | 0.65 |
| 11) <i>n</i> -butanol:acetic acid:water 4:2:5 1 to 7 on Silicagel 60 F_{254} plates; 8, 9 on Silicagel 60 F_{254} silanised and 10, 11 on cellulose F plates | 0.77 |

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